



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDING OFFICER
USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD-981) ✓
FPO MIAMI 34091

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Ser 294

18 June 1985

From: Commanding Officer, USS John Hancock (DD 981)
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374
Subj: 1984 COMMAND HISTORY FOR USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD 981); SUBMISSION OF (OPNAV REPORT 5750-1)
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12C
Encl: (1) 1984 Chronology of Events
(2) 1984 Command Narrative
(3) Biography of CDR COLLINS

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) through (3) are forwarded.


J.P. COLLINS, JR.

1 JAN Inport Charleston, Holiday leave and upkeep
 9-13 JAN NGFS Team Training
 12-13 JAN (b) (3) (A)
 19-20 JAN Training Readiness Evaluation
 19 JAN OHSAT Inspection
 25-26 JAN Ammunition Onload
 30 JAN-1 FEB Gas Turbine MTT
 31 JAN Underway for Independent Steaming Exercise WESTLANT
 3-7 FEB Port Visit Cape Canaveral
 7 FEB Underway for Empass
 9 FEB Return to Charleston
 13-14 FEB Supply Material Inspection
 13-15 FEB Gas Turbine MTT
 15 FEB Underway for Independent Steaming exercise in Cape Canaveral OPAREA
 17-25 FEB Port visit, Port Everglades
 25 FEB-01 MAR Independent Steaming exercise for AUTEC
 02 MAR Return to Charleston
 08 MAR Underway enroute Refresher Training at GTMO
 11 MAR Arrive Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
 12 MAR-15 APR REFTRA
 31 MAR-01 APR (b) (3)
 06 APR Underway enroute Ocho Rios, Jamaica
 07-09 APR Port visit Ocho Rios, Jamaica
 09 APR Return to GTMO
 16 APR Completed GTMO, underway enroute Central America
 18-30 APR SPECOPS, Caribbean, Central America
 23-27 APR Port visit, Belize City, Belize
 27 APR Underway from Belize enroute Charleston
 03 MAY Return to Charleston
 04 MAY Transit to Charleston Naval Weapons Station for weapons offload
 04 MAY Hosted 20 NJROTC Cadets
 14 MAY Embarked SH-2 Helo Detachment from Jacksonville Naval Air Station
 14 MAY Underway enroute Vacapes OPAREA
 15 MAY Anchored Bloodworth Island
 16-17 MAY NGFS
 17-24 MAY Port visit, Annapolis, MD
 24 MAY Underway from Annapolis with 23 Midshipmen embarked
 29 MAY-04 JUN Port Visit, Boston
 04 JUN Underway from Boston enroute Bermuda OPAREA
 06-17 JUN MARCOT 1-84 (Deep water ASW ops with Canadian units)
 18 JUN Helo Detachment Debarked
 18 JUN Return to Charleston
 20 JUN-09 JUL IMAV
 19-22 JUL Machinery Monitoring Team visit
 17 JUL Underway for COMPTUEX 3-84
 17-28 JUL COMPTUEX 3-84
 28 JUL Return to Charleston
 21 AUG Underway for READEX 2-84
 21 AUG-13 SEP READEX 2-84
 01 SEP BSF Roosevelt Roads, PR
 07 SEP Return to Charleston
 10-12 SEP Underway for hurricane evasion
 17-18 SEP SMI
 05 OCT Underway for deployment with MEF 1-85
 13 OCT BSF Ponta Delgada, AZ

15-17 OCT Port visit Rota, Spain
 23 OCT Transit Suez Canal
 24-26 OCT Survops Red Sea
 27 OCT BSF Djibouti, DJ
 28 OCT-2 NOV SURVOPS Gulf of Aden/Northern Arabian Sea/Gulf of Oman/Straits of
 Hormuz/Persian Gulf
 03-05 NOV Port visit Bahrain
 06-09 NOV SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 10 NOV BSF Sitrah, BA
 11-12 NOV SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 13-18 NOV Port Visit Bahrain
 19-20 NOV SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 21-22 NOV BSF Sitrah, BA
 23-24 NOV SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 28 NOV-1 DEC SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 25-27 NOV Port visit Ad-Damman, SA
 1 DEC BSF Sitrah, BA
 3-10 DEC SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 10-16 DEC Port visit Bahrain
 17-18 DEC SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 19-20 DEC BSF SITRAH, BA
 21-22 DEC SURVOPS Persian Gulf
 23 DEC BSF Sitrah, BA
 24-31 DEC SURVOPS Persian Gulf

COMMAND HISTORY NARRATIVE 1984

John Hancock began 1984 moored at Naval Station, Charleston, SC with Commander John P. Collins, Jr. in command. On 31 January, John Hancock got underway for Independent Steaming ops in the Western Atlantic with a Gas Turbine Mobile Training Team embarked. On 3 February, John Hancock was notified that an S-3A Viking from Cecil Field had spotted a flare from a pair of disabled pleasure boats approximately 40 miles off the Florida coast. John Hancock lookouts spotted the boats two hours later and the ship rescued the six boaters who had been adrift for six days without food or water. The next day, the ship arrived in Port Canaveral for a three day visit. On the 7th, the ship got underway for three days of events including several PACFIRES and air tracking exercises with the successful firing of two Nato Seasparrow missiles. John Hancock returned to Charleston on 9 February for a short one-week stop before again getting underway for an Independent Steaming exercise in the Cape Canaveral OPAREA with heavy emphasis on training in preparation for the upcoming Refresher Training. After a seven day port visit in Port Everglades, the ship departed for the AUTEC range in the Tongue of the Ocean for three days of advanced ASW exercises. On 02 March, the ship arrived back in Charleston to make final preparations before departing for GITMO.

On 11 March, John Hancock arrived in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for five weeks of refresher training. The ship successfully completed REFTRA on 16 April and departed for SPECOPS off the coast of Central America which included a three day port visit to Belize City, Belize. On 03 May the ship returned to Charleston. On 14 May John Hancock departed enroute Vacapes OPAREA and NGFS training at Bloodsworth Island, concluding with a seven day port visit in Annapolis, MD during June week at the Naval Academy. On 24 May, the ship embarked an SH-2 Helo from Jacksonville Naval Air Station and got underway for Midshipman training. On 29 May, John Hancock payed a visit to our namesake's hometown, Boston, Massachusetts for participation in the "Spirit of Massachusetts" Tall Ships Festival. On 04 June, the ship got underway enroute Bermuda OPAREA and MARCOT 1-84 for deepwater ASW OPS with Canadian units. On 18 June, John Hancock returned to Charleston for a brief upkeep period and prepared for her next two exercises, COMPTUEX 3-84 and READEX 2-84.

John Hancock returned to Charleston on 7 September upon completion of READEX but was forced to leave port with other units on 10 September due to hurricane Diana which threatened the South Carolina Coast. The ship returned to port 12 September to make final preparations for her upcoming deployment. John Hancock departed Charleston 05 October for deployment with the Middle East Force, and after brief stops in Azores; Rota, Spain; and Djibouti, arrived in Bahrain on 03 November. John Hancock spent the remainder of the year with MEF 1-85 in the Persian Gulf where the ship played a vital role in monitoring gulf shipping and maintaining a tactical data link with USAF "AWACS" planes on patrol in Saudi Arabia. John Hancock served as flagship for Commander, Middle East Force, RADM John Addams, USN, during most of November and December 1984. The ship also embarked the CMEF logistics helicopter "Desert Duck" SH-3 detachment, HS-1 DET ONE, a Stinger missile detachment, and a Tactical Augmentation for Command and Control Communications detachment for the duration of Persian Gulf operations. On several occasions, John Hancock provided humanitarian assistance to merchant ships damaged in the Iran - Iraq war. Captain J.P. Collins, Jr. remained in command at the end of the year.